

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

A special thanks is owed to Don Austin, MD, MPH, Professor, Oregon Health and Science University. Dr. Austin provided invaluable leadership and technical assistance on this project through the National Mentorship Program in Applied Chronic Disease Epidemiology which is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), and coordinated through Penn State University. Dr. Austin's experiences in public health epidemiology at the state, federal, and academic levels as well as his sensational ability to instruct, tremendously improved the quality of this report.

We would like to thank the following individuals/organizations for substantial support and contribution to the project:

- Victor Filos, Health Data Analyst, Nebraska Health and Human Services System, for completing the data analysis of the Nebraska Hospital Discharge Data presented within this report.
- Brett Foley, MS, Temporary Employee, Nebraska Health and Human Services System, for completing the analysis of the Medicaid related data presented within this report.
- Barb Fraser, MS, RD, for editing the report.
- Ted Fraser, MS, Data Analyst, CIMRO of Nebraska, for completing the quality of care analysis for Nebraska Medicare enrollees presented within this report.
- Jane McGinnis, MBA, Medicaid Managed Care Epidemiologist, Nebraska Health and Human Services System, for providing oversight and technical assistance with the Medicaid related data presented within this report.
- Norm Nelson, Health Data Analyst, Nebraska Health and Human Services System, for completing much of the data analysis and providing technical assistance on the mortality and BRFSS data presented within this report.

We would also like to thank the following individuals for assisting with the planning and reviewing of this report (NHHSS=Nebraska Health and Human Services System):

Rajaena Appleby, MS, Community Heart and Stroke Director, American Heart Association-Heartland Affiliate-Nebraska; Arturo Coto, MPH, Disease Surveillance Coordinator, Office of Epidemiology, NHHSS; Pierre Fayad, MD, Chair, Department of Neurological Sciences, University of Nebraska Medical Center; Wanda Koszewski, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Nutrition and Health Science, University of Nebraska Lincoln; Carrie Kunc, Director Specialty Society, Nebraska Medical Association; Marilyn McGary, Administrator, Office of Minority Health, NHHSS; Jacquelyn D. Miller, DDS, Deputy Director, Health Services, NHHSS; Syed M. Mohiuddin, MD, Chief, Division of Cardiology, Creighton University Medical Center; Richard Raymond, MD, Chief Medical Officer, NHHSS; Bryan Rettig, MS, Lead Program Analyst, Data Management Section, NHHSS; Monica Seeland, RHIA, Director of Clinical Health Information, Nebraska Hospital Association; Kathy Ward, Administrator, Office of Women's Health, NHHSS; Bill Wiley, Public Information Officer, Communications and Legislative Services, NHHSS.

-Nebraska Cardiovascular Health Program

*Financial support for this project and publication was provided through the Nebraska Cardiovascular Health Program of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, using "Statewide Cardiovascular Health Programs" funding (U50/CCU721341-01) from the CDC.*